September 17, 2024

This is a message for students and parents of the Mount Carmel Area School District.

Our team has been on the phone with local school districts and local police departments regarding the social media posts that were discussed earlier this morning. Even though the incident did not directly involve MCA — we can see how, in part, student student social media practices led to the cancellation of school today.

Some reminders for parents and guardians:

- Discuss appropriate social media practices with your children.
- Constantly check their accounts to make sure they are using social media appropriately.
- In this case, what caused concern in other local school districts was that students "re-posted" false information. Local and State police are now actively investigating the origin of the social media post.
- Please speak to your child that they should immediately report concerning information to a parent, teacher, administrator, use the safe2say tip line or contact the police — not repost something on their social media.

I can assure our community that if we ever find that any of our students threaten someone either online or verbally in school or post something online that could be perceived as a threat (we will never take "I was only joking" as an excuse) — our district will fully investigate and push to the fullest extent possible that the student be prosecuted for such action.

Our entire community plays an important role in the safety of our students and staff and appreciate parental continued support.

The school program to discuss these dangers with students in grades 7 to 12 (originally scheduled for today) will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

The make-up day for the school cancellation today is Monday, February 17th.

Thank you,
Pete Cheddar